

URBAN DISTRICT OF AMLWCH

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

-1952-

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR



AMLWCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chairman of the Council:-

Councillor J.R. Roberts

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor Gruffydd Pritchard

Members of the Public Health Committee:-

Councillor Dora Davies
Councillor O. Taliesyn Jones
Councillor D.H. Rowlands, J.P.
Councillor William Owen
Councillor Gruffydd Pritchard
Councillor John R. Roberts
Councillor Elias Jones
Councillor Evan Humphreys
Councillor Walter Rowlands
Councillor W. Thomas Owen.

Medical Officer of Health:-

Dr. G.H.B. Roberts, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H., L.M.

Sanitary Inspector:-

A. Healy.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee,
Amlwch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the Health of your District during the year 1952.

The total number of births for each of the last three successive years have been respectively 42, 45 and 46, which upon correction are shown to be 15.5, 16.38 and 16.16 per thousand of the population. The comparable figures for England & Wales as a whole are 15.8, 15.5 and 15.3. The current for Anglesey is 17.0. From these figures it will be seen that there has been no really significant variation.

The total number of deaths for the years 1952 and 1951 are 35 and 46 respectively, the corresponding corrected rates are 12.76 and 9.4 as compared with the figure of 11.3 for England & Wales as a whole. These figures are, of course, the product of increases and decreases of occurrences within the principal groups of causes of deaths.

In conformity with other parts of the country, - Amlwch has shown a rise (as 14 is to 10) in the mortality from heart diseases. In contrast to the nil return for the preceding two years, - 1952 produced one death from pulmonary tuberculosis. It may not be insignificant that this single death from a tubercular cause has been paralleled by five notifications of the same disease. In 1951 there was not a single notification of any tubercular infection, either pulmonary or non-pulmonary. Whilst there is no direct evidence that these five cases (all, incidentally over 32 years of age) arose as a result of adverse housing conditions, yet, it would be unwise to forget that, firstly, there have been five actively infectious persons moving within the community, each a potential source of danger to child and adolescent alike, that secondly, this disease and adverse housing conditions are commonly closely linked together, and that thirdly, there are many substandard houses in the district. The exact number of overcrowded and/or substandard houses will not be known until the "permissive" Section 57 of the Housing Act of 1936 is brought into operation.

In his report, the Sanitary Inspector has referred to clearance and demolition orders; this reference covers properties that by major structural defects or bad designing and siting are beyond the sphere of reasonable consideration for repair work.

It is anticipated that legislation will be adopted that will allow of higher rentals to ensure the initiation or completion of house repairs. The alternative is, of course, the progressive decay of property at a rate with which no Housing Authority's house-building programme can compete. This more particularly applies to a small Authority such as this, with limited financial resources.

It is gratifying that 22 more new houses were completed and that, therefore, the corresponding number of health endangered families were given a chance to better their own welfare. It is to be hoped that these families, the Council's new tenants, will treat their new houses in the way that their own well being, and a new house, demands. Experience elsewhere has shown that in the majority of instances this is so. The present Craig y Don housing target of 122 should make an appreciable difference to a population of 2877 even if one conservatively assumes an average family composition of five persons.

Owing to there having been epidemics of both measles and whooping cough during the preceding year it was not anticipated that the current figures would be appreciably greater than the cases actually recorded.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and members for their interest and support and the Clerk, Sanitary Inspector and other officers of the Council for their willing cooperation and help.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G.H.B. Roberts

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	4494
Population (Registrar General's mid 1952 estimate)			2877	
Rateable Value (on 1.4.52)	...	...	£11904	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate		...	£46.4s.4d	
Number of rateable premises	...	...	2022	
Number of Farm houses.	...	...	42	

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births (Actual Occurrences).

	<u>1951</u>			<u>1952</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	23	16	39	21	20	41
Illegitimate	4	2	6	0	5	5
	<u>27</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>46</u>
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

The Birth Comparability factor is 1.01.

Birth Rates (total)

1951

Amlwch = 16.38 (Corrected).

England & Wales = 15.5.

1952

Amlwch = 16.0 (Crude); 16.16 (Corrected).

Anglesey = 17.0 England & Wales (15.3).

Stillbirths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	0	2	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (live & still) = 41.6
The Stillbirth Rate for Anglesey was 24.8; England & Wales, 22.6.

The Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 estimated population = 0.69.
Rate for Anglesey, 0.43; England & Wales, 0.35.

Deaths.

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
21	14	35
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Death Comparability factor is 0.77.

The Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population = 12.2.
The Death Rate for Anglesey was 13.4.

The Corrected Rate per 1,000 population = 9.4,
(1951 = 16.76). Rate for England & Wales = 11.3
12.76

Maternal Deaths

Nil.

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death		M	F
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1
2. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	1
3. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	2
4. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	0
5. Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	...	1	1
6. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1	0
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	3	1
8. Coronary disease, angina	...	5	1
9. Other heart disease	...	4	4
10. Bronchitis	...	2	0
11. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1	2
12. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	1	1
13. Accidents	...	1	0
 TOTAL		21	14

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (excluding tuberculosis).

Table showing cases notified during the year classified in age groups.

Disease	1-4yrs	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-44	45-64	65&over.
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	2	-	2
Measles	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	2	2	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis.

Notifications of tuberculosis were as follows:-

Age	Sex	Respiratory or Non-respiratory
32	M	Respiratory
39	M	"
39	M	"
42	M	"
51	M	"

Vaccination against Smallpox.

A total of 26 children were vaccinated, of which 7 were re-vaccinations.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The total number of children immunised during 1952 was 29. The corresponding figures for 1951 = 31; 1950, 26; 1949, 56; 1948, 51. These figures include the number carried out within the Sanitary District including those performed at Infant Welfare Centres and also on school premises.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

B.C.G. vaccination is carried out by the Chest Physician in collaboration with the County Medical Officer and his staff. The scheme provides for the vaccination of new born infants born into tuberculous households and of tuberculin-negative contacts of known cases. During 1952, four such vaccinations were carried out in the District.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Written Inspections	Occupiers Notices	Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:		
a. Insufficient	-	-
b. Unsuitable or defective	-	-
TOTAL	-	-

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952.

General Nuisances.

Number of complaints received	...	...	138
Number of visits made	...	...	138
Number of revisits made	...	...	279
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	37
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	2
Number of nuisances abated by Informal & Formal Action			151

Housing Act, 1936.

Number of premises inspected	...	...	25
Number of premises in which families rehoused	...	...	22
Number of new houses completed	...	...	22
Number of new houses under construction	...	...	10
New houses contemplated but not yet commenced	...	...	74
Number of notices served under Section 11	...	...	3
Number of applicants on council housing list	...	...	128

During the year under review the progress on the Craig-y-Don Housing Site First Stage reached a point where 22 houses were handed over to the Council. Three applicants were rehoused from houses in respect of which Section 11 Notices were served as the houses were completely beyond repair.

The remaining houses were filled from the Council's Housing List and in these matters the Council's system of points allocation does give selective preference to applicants who are in the worst positions relative to overcrowding, medical history etc. The system works quite fairly.

During the year, works were also commenced on a private estate of eleven houses for the purpose of Factory operators needs in housing certain key workers and rehousing certain families displaced by railway extension works, causing houses to be demolished.

Some houses were also inspected with a view to building up a register relative to future clearance and demolition but the many calls on the office of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor precluded this work being followed through to completion. Whilst a complete survey of this nature is long overdue it is impossible to execute the same under present conditions of slow progress in building new houses and the lack of at least temporary help in the Sanitary Inspector's Office. Until this task is executed no clear picture of future Housing needs can be accomplished. The general principles carried out at present are to investigate complaints received and endeavour to keep many of the sub-standard houses weatherproof only, that no great deal of repair could be reasonably requested. If some of these older houses are to be

Housing Act 1936, (continued).

saved, and many could be brought up to a reasonably good standard then increased rents must be permitted and the necessary amenities provided with assistance from the conditions laid down in the Housing Act, 1949-52.

Sewers and Drainage.

No great progress towards the complete conversion of the built up areas on to the water carriage system has yet taken place. Doubtlessly much thought must be given to the matter so that the cheapest possible method of conversion must be adopted in the Council's interests. Individuals are in some cases proceeding with these works on their own initiative but not, unfortunately, in sufficient numbers to bring about any real reduction in the night soil duties. In all 10 premises have been connected to the sewers. No doubt the year 1953 will bring a greater impetus to this work, but it may be generally assumed that complete progress will not be achieved until the Council introduce their own house connection scheme.

Water.

Here again no real progress has been made in the enforcement of piped supplies to all premises. This arose by reason of the intermittent supplies available during the summer period and no guarantee that even these small supplies could be maintained.

The Anglesey County Council as the Statutory Water Undertakers pressed forward with all possible speed to lay a 6" main from the Cefni Reservoir but this did not reach Amlwch until December. In view of defects arising in this new main it is not anticipated that any real policy of enforcement of piped supplies to houses can be pursued until sometime in 1953.

The more rural areas of the district are served by a series of shallow wells, which are a long way from being satisfactory. These wells received attention for cleaning and lime washing purposes at average periods of six weeks or thereabouts. In three instances however, they are cleaned fortnightly. No real improvement in these can be made as the sources of contamination are too great to combat and whilst applications have been made for extensions these cannot be contemplated by the Water Undertakers pending the ^{completion of} extension of major extensions to the more densely populated areas of the County. Samples of Well waters are taken from time to time and are seldom satisfactory.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Three disinfections were executed during the year after cases of tuberculosis. In no case was bedding sent away as this service was refused.

All disinfections are by means of Formalin Lamps and some sealing.

Disinfection & Disinfestation (continued).

Arrangements exist for the steam treatment of bedding at the Isolation Hospital at Llangefnih but no calls were made on this service. No calls were made on the Department in respect of disinfection of premises for fleas, lice or bug infestations. Some of the Council's own properties were treated with Gammexane dust in respect of Cockroaches and also one Bakehouse received attention.

Refuse Disposal.

Domestic Refuse is collected daily on 4 days per week and night soil collections are made between the hours of 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. between Mondays and Fridays. The whole of the built up areas figure in a weekly collection while some rural areas received a bi-weekly collection and a monthly service is given to the more isolated regions.

A semi-controlled system of tipping is now practised but in due course as the large factory adjacent hereto comes into operation, a more rigid system of tipping and covering will need to be enforced.

Camps-Caravan.

The large camp erected on behalf of the Factory Contractors proves to be a well conducted and competent organisation which hasnot caused the Department any trouble.

The Licensing of a small caravan site for a period of twelve months by the Planning Authority did help to ease the problem of unauthorised camping, nevertheless, sporadic camping did occur but nothing of a permanent nature. Much of this will disappear with the completion of Factory erection sometime in 1953.

Factory/Bakehouses.

No action was necessary during the year in respect of the premises figuring on the Council's Register.

Food & Drugs.

Twenty-two samples of milk were taken for bacteriological analysis during the year, three of which proved unsatisfactory. Sixteen samples of milk were taken for Tubercular examination, all of which proved satisfactory.

Further samples taken during the year were sponge mixture, margarine, mild beer, fruit in syrup, cough mixtures and sherry flavouring - all of which proved genuine. I am indebted to the Food & Drugs Officers of the Anlgeseay County Council for these figures.

Food & Drugs (continued).

Forty-eight routine visits were made to shops of various types throughout the year and the general standards were found to be reasonably good but the enforcement of sanitary and cleansing facilities will need to be enforced as soon as suitable drainage and water supplies are available. In two instances works in this respect have commenced.

The standards maintained by the Meat Purveyors are exceptionally good but representations were made in respect of the meat delivery van and considerable improvements were obtained in this matter.

The standard of food sent into the district is average but quite a lot of Continental goods are open to suspicion in that they soon start to break down after a short period in stock. Articles of food condemned are listed herewith:-

31	cans of	Leg & Shoulder Hams.
253	" "	Assorted canned fruits.
8	" "	Veal.
79	" "	assorted meat products.
71	" "	Vegetables.
24	" "	milk.
18	Jars of	Pickles.
12	cans of	Soups.
4	" "	Salmon.
14	" "	Sardines.
1	" "	Chicken.
1 side of bacon, contaminated by extraneous staining.		
5½	lbs margarine,	" " "
21	lbs chocolate,	" " turpentine.

The retailers throughout the district are very co-operative in these matters and never leave anything to chance in these respects.

Due to heavy calls in other respects only a small number of ice cream samples were taken one of which returned as Grade 4. The producer was taken to task on this and a better effort is hoped for in 1953.

Works on rehabilitating licensed premises are proceeding to bring these properties into line with Section 13 requirements and a better report may be anticipated in the next year.

Rodent Control.

This work is still executed on a part time basis by a regular member of the Council's staff and he deals with all complaints received. No great increase has been found in these duties and the system operates smoothly.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. Healy,

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

